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The Abraham Lincoln HOME

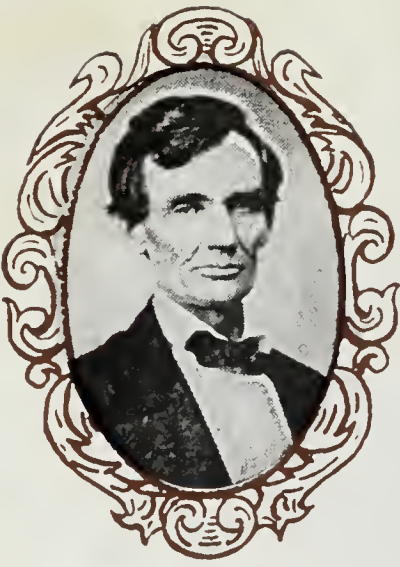
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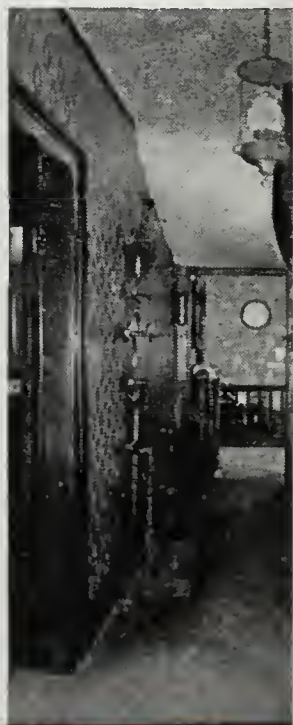
The Abraham Lincoln Home, the only home Lincoln ever owned, on the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets, is the shrine most intimately associated with his life in Springfield. He purchased it in 1844 from the Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal rector who married Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd on November 4, 1842. When Lincoln, the young lawyer, bought the property for \$1,500 it was a one and one-half story cottage, built in 1839 on a 50 by 150 foot lot. To this home on May 2, 1844, he brought his wife and infant son, Robert Todd.

The Lincolns had been living at the Globe Tavern, where room and board were four dollars a week. Robert was born on August 1, 1843, and died July 26, 1926. The other three boys were born in the home: Edward Baker (1846-1850), William Wallace (1850-1862), and Thomas, known as "Tad," (1853-1871). With the exception of one year, beginning on November 1, 1847, during Lincoln's term in Congress, the family lived here until leaving for Washington in February, 1861. Springfield was then about 12,000 people.

Springfield was always a lively place when the Legislature was in session. Members brought their wives and remained in town throughout the session. Lecturers, traveling entertainers and singers came during the winter season. The Lincolns did their share of entertaining. On May 19,

● Original

● Parlor



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1860, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln received in the parlors the committee from the Republican national convention which came to officially notify him of his nomination for president. On the evening of February 6, 1861, the Lincoln Home was the scene of a grand levee, to which the public was invited.

Lincoln retained ownership of the house when the family moved to the White House, but rented it to Lucian Tilton who purchased most of the furniture. Later Tilton moved to Chicago where his home and furnishings were destroyed in the fire of 1871.

Every effort has been made to preserve the Lincoln Home as he lived in it. A sketch of the parlor and sitting room, made by a New York newspaper man who was in Springfield in 1860, is a guide to the furnishings and their arrangement. Some of the articles are original pieces, while others are from contemporary homes of relatives and friends. The original oak boards in the floor, and a reproduction of the original wall paper is in the sitting room. The draperies and parlor carpet are copies. The original table and door bell are in the dining room.

The framework and floors are of oak; the laths of hand-split hickory; the doors, door and window frames, and weatherboarding of black walnut. Hand wrought nails, but more frequently wooden pegs, were used in the building. The "front fence on a brick foundation," Lincoln arranged for in a letter written June 11, 1850. In 1856, the house was enlarged to two full stories, at a cost of \$1,300. In 1861 Lincoln insured the house for \$3,000 and the two out-buildings which stood at the rear of the lot at \$200.

In 1887, Robert T. Lincoln, the only surviving member of the family, presented his father's home to the State of Illinois to be a memorial and open to the public free of charge.

The Lincoln Home is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

nut Stairway



● Sitting Room



LINCOLN'S FAREWELL TO SPRINGFIELD

FEBRUARY 11, 1861

The Illinois State Journal of February 12, 1861, reported "despite bad weather . . . hundreds of his fellow citizens, without distinction of party had assembled . . . to bid him Godspeed." After silently shaking hands with many of his well-wishers, the President Elect and party boarded the train. Shortly before eight o'clock, "On the platform of the rear car Lincoln bared his head to the rain, faced his friends, and stood silently struggling with his feelings . . . then slowly, solemnly spoke . . ." My Friends:

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested on Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope your prayers will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

After the train pulled away, he started to record the words he had just spoken. The roadbed was rough and his pencil made strange characters. He struggled through a few sentences, then handed the tablet to his secretary and dictated the remainder. The original draft was found in the Robert Todd Lincoln papers, and a photostatic copy is displayed in Lincoln's Home.

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Write to the Department of Public Works and Buildings, Division of Parks and Memorials, 604 Armory Building, Springfield, for further information concerning Illinois Parks and Memorials.

Forty-two State Parks, 25 of historic interest, are of early section from every part of the State. Ludden and cabins are an important feature of Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City State Parks. Reservations should be made with lodge managers.

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